The SWORD of the LORD

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

Office of Publication: 129 W. Sixth St., Newton, Kansas. Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

VOL. XII. NO. 2 | FRIDAY, JAN. 13, 1950 | Canada and foreign 1 year $2.50; 3 years $6.50 | United States 1 year $2.00; 3 years $5.00

Two More Reasons For Winning Souls

By Evangelist John R. Rice

"He that winneth souls is wise"—Prov. 11:30.

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and forever"—Dan. 12:3.

Last week we published the first part of a sermon mechanically recorded, showing that one should win souls for the sake of the lost themselves. Now we give the rest of the sermon, showing two more great reasons for winning souls.

I. We Ought to Win Souls for Our Own Sake

Then next, you ought to be a soul winner for your own sake. And this is a good practical reason. When you put yourself in it you can see the reason for it, can't you? "Well, now what do I get out of it?" You ask. You get plenty, let me tell you now.

Soul Winners Conquer Worldliness Easier

I have learned this: you are going to settle lots of things when you get soul winning settled. I used to have so many temptations. There was a fight all the time. I have a lot of fighting now. I have a one-track mind and the Devil fights me. I know it; but, bless God, I know how to lick him. I know what he is trying to keep me from doing. He is trying to keep me from winning souls. But so many people say to me, "Oh, if I could be sanctified," or "Oh, if I could just overcome this habit; oh, if I could just have victory about this!" Listen to me! Christian, if you ever get to be a soul winner you will find that other things just fade out of the way. You will find that you would not give the snap of your finger for all the wine, women and song in the world. If you get a burden and passion for dying souls, brother, that straightens things out. Paul said, "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth . . ." (I Cor. 8:13). You get a broken heart for your brother and you will not care whether you eat meat or not. You will say, "Never mind, never mind—it doesn't matter." If you want to have victory in your life, get out here and die to win souls. Get your heart broken about that

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Dr. John Zoller

THOUSANDS MUST RENEW!

By the Editor

Expired Subscriptions Being Dropped. Look At Your Label! Special Offer Closes February 1. Help Reach 75,000 Goal.

The loyalty and enthusiasm for THE SWORD OF THE LORD which has brought in some 32,000 paid subscriptions (as of December 30) is one of the most charming and heartening things I have ever seen! God's people love THE SWORD OF THE LORD. The Spirit of God has put it on the hearts of His people to spread the revival message therein. A new day for gospel preaching, a new day for Bible evangelism, surely must be upon us. I have no doubt that we will reach our goal of 75,000 paid circulation each week for THE SWORD OF THE LORD very soon.

We have extended the special offer to February 1. All subscriptions postmarked by midnight,

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"Now Is the Day of Salvation"

By B. H. Carrol, D.D., L.L.D.

Thirty Years Pastor of First Baptist Church, Waco, Texas
Founder of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

Scripture Reading: The Great Supper (Luke 14); The Marriage Feast (Matt. 22).

Text: "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God."—Luke 14:15.

It is quite important to note, concerning the introductory Scriptures just read, that the Parable of the Great Supper recorded in the fourteenth chapter of Luke and the Parable of the Marriage Feast recorded in the twenty-second chapter of Matthew are not variant accounts of the same transaction by two independent witnesses. Having some general resemblances, they differ widely in occasion, time, place, circumstances, and meaning.

The Parable of the Great Supper was a somewhat private lesson given on a Sabbath day some months before His crucifixion, most probably in Perea and certainly in the house of a Pharisee with whom our Lord was dining. But the Parable of the Marriage Feast was part of a public discourse delivered by Him in the last week of His ministry and in the court of the temple. While, therefore, the two sessions are not to be confounded, yet there is a deeply significant relation between them that will be emphasized in this sermon.

You will have observed from Luke's account of the facts leading up to the text that while dining with the Pharisee He healed a man afflicted with the dropsy, taught an important lesson concerning the Sabbath day, rebuked the bad manners of fellow-guests in matters of etiquette, and instructed His host as to the quality of guests one may most profitably invite to a dinner.

These facts disclose striking peculiarities of our Lord manifested here, and many times elsewhere, in dealing with invitations

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AMERICA! QUIT INSULTING GOD!

By Evangelist John E. Zoller, D.D.
Vice-president "Christ for America"

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." Ezekiel 3:17-19.

Like Ezekiel the prophet, I, too, sense the tremendous responsibility which rests upon me. I must show you the actual conditions existing in our beloved America today. I must make clear to you the fact that we are insulting God in our daily living. Oh, how I pray I can get you to see this! And as certainly as you hear my voice, if we do not repent of our sin and come back to God, the judgment of God will most surely fall upon us.

I want to bring you a brief picture of the actual, spiritual conditions existing in America. I hope I can get you to realize that we are now living in the most critical period spiritually this nation has ever known. Since the war has ended we have plunged into an orgy of wickedness, insulting God day by day until we are facing either revival or revolution, it is either Christ or chaos. I do trust I can get you to THINK! I know this is not easy—we read what others write, we listen to what others say, and do nothing! I want you to THINK and then act! I will try to show you how we are insulting God, and what will happen if we do not have a spiritual awakening.

I. We Are Insulting God in Our Home Life

Do you agree with me that this is true? I am sure you will see it when I mention some of the ways by which this is done. God has made every provision for our needs, physical, material, and spiritual, yet we are insulting Him every day in spite of it.

1. We Are Insulting God by Our Profanity

I need not tell you that in hun-

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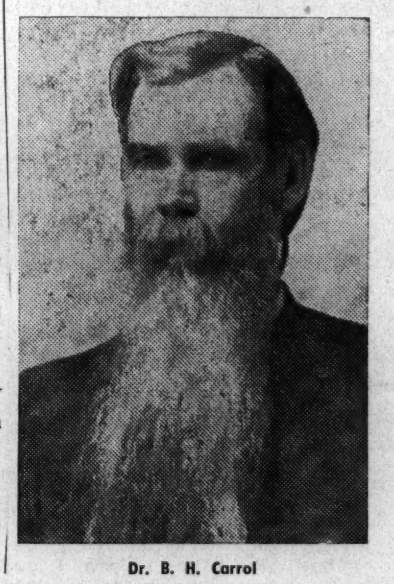

Dr. B. H. Carrol

SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE?

By Evangelist Clifford Lewis, Winona Lake, Indiana

None of us want to fail but we all desire to succeed. If we would live a life of constant victory we must faithfully know and do certain basic things. Let us notice a few:

1. Know That You Know Jesus

Be sure that you have accepted Christ as your personal Saviour. Don't depend on anyone to save you but Christ. Don't depend on anything to cover your sins but the blood of Christ. We read in John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (I John 5:12). The 13th verse tells us, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life."

If you have not definitely, personally received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, read these verses again, fall upon your knees and pray, "Lord Jesus, forgive my sins. I am sorry for them. I open my heart's door and receive Thee as my Saviour. I thank Thee for dying for my sins. With Thy help, I will live for Thee from this day on."

2. Witness For Christ

Let those in your home, community, place of business, or school know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you have been born again. Tell your friends, relatives

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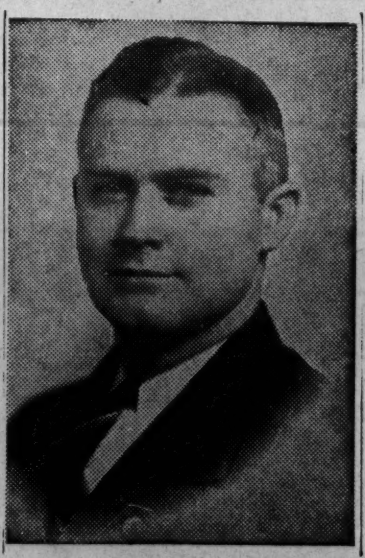

Dr. Clifford Lewis

ANSWER TO A CATHOLIC PRIEST

By the Editor

Dear Rev. D—:

I am glad you read the article on "Catholic Tradition or the Bible." I am sorry that, in the face of many, many plain Scriptures from the Word of God, you still prefer tradition to the Bible.

I should like to answer briefly some of the questions raised by your letter, and I do it, I trust, in the spirit of Christ. Our viewpoint is not the same, of course, and you do not see things just as I do; yet it is only fair to give you an honest, intelligent and kindly answer.

Persecution by Catholics

1. You say, "Hence, you never see the Catholic Church or hear her, for that matter, attack the sincerity of any man, be he Jew, Protestant or pagan." Forgive me, brother, but as a well read man, a college teacher, an editor for fifteen years, I well know all the bloody persecution of Rome, the Spanish Inquisition and worse. And I know this persecution in many countries has not ceased. It goes on even now in Spain, in Brazil, and other Latin American countries. You are either misinformed, or you pass off bloody atrocities and murders very lightly. I assure you on this matter that I have the information from abundant, reliable and unquestioned sources, that in many countries the church of Rome still carries on her murders and persecutions of sincere, Bible-worshipping, holy-living

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79,000 Copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD Printed this issue

Two More Reasons for Winning Souls

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one thing, and you can have victory.

I say the truth in Christ, I do not have to worry very much and I do not spend much time thinking about what I am going to have for groceries and what kind of clothes I will wear. Of course I do not deserve any credit for it; the Lord has me in a tight. If you have as many girls as I have, you have something to pray about. If you have a paper, you have something to pray about. If you have a pay roll of more than $1200 a week, you have something to pray about. The Lord has me in a tight—I do not deserve any credit for praying. But I say the truth in Christ, I do not have to worry about much material matters. I have learned something so much more important that it does not much matter whether I have a hamburger or a T-bone steak. You get concerned enough about soul winning and other things will seem very small and petty. If you want to have victory and live on top so you can kick the Devil in the pants and look the world in the face, get after souls, get single-minded about this matter so near the heart of God.

More Joy and Peace for the Soul Winner

Do you want to have joy? There is plenty in this world for a Christian to be troubled about. I am sorry, but there are some people who do not like me. I do not see why, but some people do not like me. And the thing that gets me is that there are some good people who do not like me. I used to think that the better you lived for God, the more you believed the Bible, the more you won souls, the more unselfish you were, the more out-and-out you were for God, the more popular you would be. I set out—I thought I would soon be preaching the Southern Baptist Convention sermon. (I never did preach it, by the way!) But I found that if you are out-and-out for God, a lot of people will not like it. If you preach against sin, a lot of people will not like it. If you get a lot of souls saved, people will say you are sensational. But, bless God, there is a balm in Gilead. Bless God, there is something that is better than all that. When I go home sometimes after people come streaming down the aisle to take my hand—they do not always do it, but sometimes they look up into my face with tears in their eyes. I say, "Do you realize you are a wicked old sinner?"

They say, "Yes."

I say, "Do you realize you ought to go to Hell?"

They say, "Yes."

I say, "Do you believe Jesus died to save you?"

They say, "Yes."

I say, "Do you mean to take Him right now and live for Him the rest of your days?"

They say, "Yes." When I go home—listen to me! I can be the offscouring of the world, as a lot of people think I am. People can say all kinds of mean things about me. But, bless God, I just float on clouds!

Listen to me! Do you want to be happy? Well, get out in the soul-winning business and God will look after your happiness.

The Gratitude of Saved People

There is something else that makes soul-winning pay: the gratitude of saved people. I have put out a good deal; I have wept some tears in my ministry; I've been over the country a good deal; I work pretty hard—but there are some people who would not believe anything bad about me. Some people would be glad to believe anything bad you could tell them; they would not have to have much evidence! But there are some people who would not believe anything bad about me. Some people would kick you out of their house if you said anything bad about me. There are some people who think John Rice is all right, some people who pray for me every day of the world. Some people write to me and say, "Why don't you come back?" An old grandmother sent me a rug the other day. She is ninety years old and nearly blind and she made it with her own hands. She said, "Brother Rice, I could have sold it for $15, but I just wanted you to have it." It was too good for my floor—She had spent months working it out. So I had it put on the back of my sofa. I look at it and say, "Thank God." You may not believe it but I have several people who like me.

A lot of people do not like my kind of preaching. When I am in a revival I preach on the scarlet sin, adultery; I preach on the lodges; I preach on the dance and say that it is as rotten as Hell. I preach on other things that are wrong; crack down on men who do not believe in a Bible Hell. And a lot of people do not like it. But the old tough guys like it. I preach in jails; that crowd believes in my kind of religion. That may sound strange, but it is so.

I remember an old tough guy about forty odd years old in Denver, Colorado, saved in my meeting there. The last Sunday night of the meeting came. I was worn out; I had spoken five times that day and was leaving that night to drive all the nine hundred miles to Dallas by the next night, to be there for the beginning of one of our large Bible conferences. After the service was over I sat on the edge of the big platform and shook hands with those who came by. A mother came along and said, "My boy and I wanted to tell you good-by (her boy was nineteen years old). I want you to know there is one mother who will pray for you as long as she lives. You saved my boy." (We do not like that. We are sort of timid about anybody's saying, "You saved me." But that is Bible language. Paul said, ". . . that I might by all means save some." When you save souls you are a saviour. You are a little saviour.)

Then a big old fellow, along with others, came. He reached up, got my head down to him (he nearly broke my neck!) and held it to him. His old whiskers ground into my cheek and he cried and cried. He said, "I guess I would have gone to Hell if you hadn't come. I wouldn't listen to anybody. You got under my skin. Oh, preacher, I want you to know I would have gone to Hell if you hadn't come to Denver. I want to thank you!" I can get along very well, thank you—let everybody curse me who wants if I can have some of that!

The other night in the closing service at Akron, Ohio, a beautiful, beautiful girl sat in the audience—I guess all girls are beautiful when they are saved. I have six daughters, and they are all beautiful to me.

This girl was sitting out in the middle of the audience, and I got personal with her. (That was another rule I broke.) I said, "Are you saved?"

"No."

"Well you ought to be. Will you trust Christ right now? If you will, stand up." And she came, went into the inquiry room, had some Scriptures shown her and got the thing all settled. Then when the service was over she came, with the tears streaming down her face, and said, "Oh, Brother Rice, thank you, thank you, thank you!" And I went home and walked on air. Listen to me! The gratitude of saved people!

Yes, I'm a poor old stick; but bless God, I am going to be somebody one of these days. I am making my plans! I wish I had time to preach a sermon on "Tears in Heaven" now. I do not have time for it, but I will tell you right now that if you plan to have a good time in Heaven you had better get yourself ready. For your own sake you had better win souls.

You ought to win souls for lost soul's sake. You ought to win souls for your own sake.

II. We Ought to Win Souls for Jesus Sake

Do you know what Jesus wants? He wants souls saved. Some people think that the Lord Jesus primarily wants righteousness. I know that He never makes righteousness a secondary matter; but the kind of righteousness most people have in mind is secondary. The kind of righteousness that says, "Don't do that and don't do this," is a secondary incidental kind of righteousness that may be indicative of spiritual pride, not necessarily heart holiness.

Jesus Cannot Be Happy Without Saving Souls

I will tell you what Jesus wants. He wants you to want what He wants. Even the holiness of Jesus Christ is someway wrapped up in this: He loves sinners; He loves poor, dying sinners and wants sinners saved. And all the enjoyment that Jesus Christ has as far as I know is in saving souls. I do not know that the Lord Jesus looks out on the sunset and sees the stratas of glory in the gilded skies, and the violet and purple and sapphirine. I do not know that He looks on the rainbow; I do not know that He looks in the cup of a flower; I do not know that He looks at the wing of a butterfly; I do not know that He looks out on the mighty river and mountains and forests and planetary system and is glad. I do not know. All of it seems to be ruined for Jesus until men are saved. I do not know why it is that God cannot be happy without me. But someway He cannot.

Elizabeth, one of my girls, married the other day. She graduated from Wheaton College (cum laude) on the fourteeth of June, and then she married on the twenty-fifth. And Mary Lloys is married. I go home and there are only four girls at the table. I say to my wife, "This is a funny mess of a family—just five or six people! We ought to have at least eight or nine." (Last winter we had Grandmother with us. And we often have friends of the girls there, etc.)

Up in Heaven the Lord Jesus and the Father and the Holy Ghost are all around a table, and they say, "This is not much of a family. We ought to have some poor old sinners who have been cleaned up." I do not know why they feel that way, but I know from the Word of God that they do. The Lord Jesus rejoices more over a sinner saved than over ninety-nine fundamentalists!—fundamentalists who can tell you the bounds of the Roman Empire, what will happen in the tribulation, whether Judas is the Antichrist and all the rest of it. There is one thing that the Lord Jesus is absorbed in. O God, let us be absorbed in the same thing!

Would you like to make Jesus happy? If so, win souls for Him!

At Christmas time I heard a story that touched my heart deeply. On Christmas Eve a little boy, with a good deal of excitement, was being put to bed. He said his bedtime prayer: "Now I lay me down to sleep. God bless Mama. God bless Daddy. God bless baby sister. God bless Grandmother. Make me a good boy. In Jesus' name. Amen." He got in bed—and then he said, "Whoa—wait a minute!"

His mother said, "What's the matter?"

He said, "I forgot something."

She said, "What was it?"

He said, "It is in my prayer—I forgot something!"

He slipped down on his knees again to pray and said, "Lord Jesus, I forgot—I hope You have a happy birthday!" I wonder; do you think about Jesus being happy. Well, I know just what it takes to make Him happy.

The Joy of Jesus Is Greater than that of a Godly Mother over a Wayward Son Redeemed

I remember the face of that old saint in Sherman, Texas, when Lonnie her boy—the drunkard and the dope fiend—was converted. I knocked him off the Christmas tree when I told him I was the same kind of sinner he was and that Jesus died for both of us. He had said to me, "That fellow, Jim Welch—was he really saved last night? I have known him a long time and if there ever was a drunkard he is one. Do you think he was really saved?"

I said, "Yes; I think so. There is no doubt in my mind that he was really saved."

"Well," he said, "do you think the Lord would save me?"

I said, "I know He will if you will trust Him."

He could not believe; it was too good. So he took the Gospel of John that I marked, went to the creek bottom and spent a day, walking back and forth, crying and praying and reading verses. A day or two later he came back to my house and said, "Brother Rice, do you have a few minutes."

I said, "Yes."

He said, "Get in my car and let's go over to my house. I am ready to take Jesus as my Saviour and I want to do it in the presence of my old mother. Her hair is as white as cotton. She has cried over me these twenty years, and I want to be right with her when I tell Jesus I will take Him."

So we went over to the house. We knelt and prayed together, and he trusted Christ. My, I remember the glory in that old white-haired saint's face. She and I sang together, "Oh, How I Love Jesus!" and she clapped her hands and both of us hugged the boy. He cried and thanked God. He said, "I can't sing but I do love Him, too." I remember the glory that was in that old saint's face. But that was nothing compared to the joy that comes to the heart of Jesus when a sinner is saved. There is more joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner than anything else in the world. Do you want to make Jesus happy? All right, get souls saved then.

To Truly Love Christ Means to Love Sinners for Whom He Died

Dr. T. T. Eaton was a famous Baptist preacher in Kentucky years ago. Dr. Eaton told this story.

He had a younger brother, and this younger brother had a boy who had a dog. Every boy, I suppose, ought to have a dog. And every boy, you know, thinks his dog is the most wonderful dog in the world. Well, this was a purebred mongrel cur. It was the most wonderful dog in the world, he thought. But nobody else thought so. If he went to feed him he could not give him any good food; he had to take only the scraps. When cold weather came the dog would slip in the house. One of the girls would get a broom, there would be a howl or two and out the dog would go! They never would let him stay in out of the cold. They said his hair came off on the carpets. Everybody in the family laughed at the fanatical devotion of the boy to that dog. He loved him with a passion and devotion. To everybody else the dog was a nuisance under foot. They told the boy he ought to give him away. He was not any good as a watchdog. He would wag his tail at the dirtiest tramp that ever came around the house. He was not any good for anything or to anybody except to the boy who loved him.

One day the boy was going to the country, I believe Dr. Eaton said to a vacation at his Grandmother's. He got himself ready, got his clothes bundled up in a little newspaper and was at the gate ready to get into the carriage. (It was before the days of automobiles.) And there came his dog around the house, wagging his tail as if to say, "Yea, we are going; come on, I'll go with you!"

The boy turned around and said, "No, Rover, you can't go." The dog dropped his tail and the boy said again, "No—you can't go." Then he turned to the people on the porch and said, "Now, you be good to my dog while I am gone. Don't you be mean to him; you be good to my dog!" The people all promised, laughing, and he got in the carriage and rolled away.

Out at his grandmother's he got typhoid fever (slow fever, people used to call it before the days when they began to conquer it). And the boy wasted away, wasted away and the fever mounted. They did everything they could do, but

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Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Dixon, Illinois, under the act of March 3, 1879. Send all correspondence to the publication office, 129 West Sixth Street, Newton, Kansas, or to 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

Application for transfer of second-class mailing privilege from Dixon, Illinois to Newton, Kansas is pending.

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE
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EVANGELIST BILL RICE
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Subscription price $2.00 one year; $5.00 three years. Canada and foreign countries. $2.50 a year $6.50 for three years.

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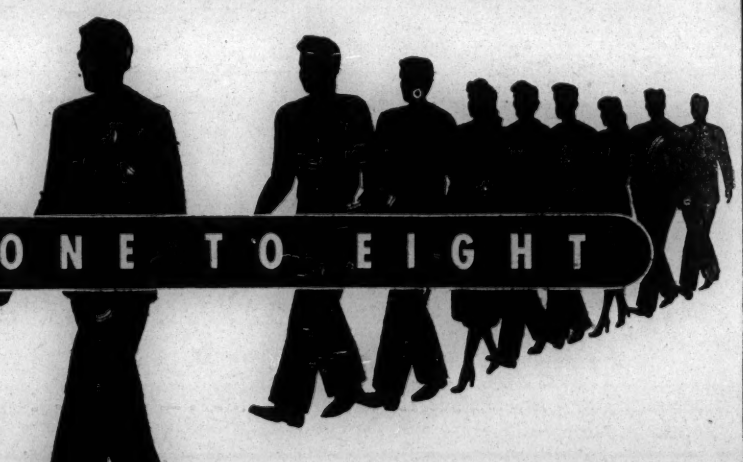

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Thousands Must Renew!

(Continued from page 1)

February 1, will be accepted at the special offer of eight months, thirty-five weeks for $1.00, and the fine premiums offered for two or for ten subscriptions will be given. After February 1 the regular price of $2.00 a year (or $2.50 a year in Canada and foreign countries) will prevail again, without premiums.

We are overwhelmed with subscriptions in THE SWORD OF THE LORD office. We will surely reach our goal of 75,000 paid subscriptions in this campaign to honor the fiftieth anniversary of the death of D. L. Moody. However, there are several serious words I need to say to readers.

Thousands of Readers Have Let Their Subscriptions Expire and Will Be Dropped This Month if They Do Not Renew

We have let some subscribers remain on the list longer than their paid subscription justified simply because we have not been able to catch up and to find out who had renewed and who had not, and we wanted each one to have a good chance to renew and not lose a copy of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Now, however, the subscription campaign will be drawing to a rapid close. We plan to drop at once thousands of subscribers who have not renewed their subscription.

Look at the label of your SWORD OF THE LORD. If it says, 12-49, then your subscription expired in December, 1949. If it says, 1-50, then your subscription expires this month, January. Check and see if your subscription has expired or is about to expire, and if so, please renew at once. Take advantage of the fine special offer, and save us trouble and save yourself disappointment by renewing at once.

A Word to New Readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Thousands of homes get THE SWORD OF THE LORD now, and will be receiving THE SWORD OF THE LORD in the next few weeks, as gift subscriptions from their friends. If you find that you have begun to receive this paper, then you may know that it is a bona fide paid subscription, paid for by some friend or loved one, as a gift to you. The readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD are a loyal bunch. They regard THE SWORD OF THE LORD as the foremost revival weekly in the world. They want to spread the blessings that they themselves find in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. So thousands have subscribed for pastors, relatives, and neighbors. If you did not subscribe for THE SWORD OF THE LORD, then you will be grateful to the thoughtfulness of some friend who subscribed for you, hoping it would be a blessing. And to you, let me say that THE SWORD OF THE LORD is an interdenominational Christian magazine coming each week. It publishes full-length sermons by the greatest preachers of leading denominations, and the greatest preachers of the past. We believe that the Bible is the very Word of God. We believe in salvation by faith in the atoning blood of Christ. We believe that Christ is God's own Son who came to earth to live a perfect life and die a substitutionary death, paying for our sins, and that He ascended to Heaven. We believe that soul winning is the main duty of every Christian and of every Christian organization. We believe in the premillennial coming of Christ. We believe in Heaven for born-again children of God and Hell for Christ-rejecting sinners. You see, we are old-fashion, orthodox Christians. We follow the traditions and teachings of the great men of God like Moody, Torrey, Spurgeon. If you believe in the old-time Christian religion, the gospel of salvation by the blood, the gospel of the new birth by faith in Christ, then you will like THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

Let us suggest two things to our readers. First of all, if you like THE SWORD OF THE LORD, why not send it to someone else while our special offer is on. You may send this paper eight full months (35 weekly issues) for only $1.00, or sixteen months for $2.00. Share your blessing with somebody else.

If someone has received THE SWORD OF THE LORD as a gift from a friend, and if you do not believe in the old-time, fundamental Bible Christianity, then you may not want THE SWORD OF THE LORD. If that be the case, you have a right to ask us to stop the paper. I hope you will not stop it, however, but will read it with an open and earnest heart, for the blessing that God has for you in the great messages in this paper.

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"Now Is the Day of Salvation"

(Continued from page 1)

to people's houses, or in participating in more general social events that ought to teach His people a solemn lesson, because He is the only model for their imitation. These peculiarities make our Lord the most remarkable personage in the annals of time in His bearing toward the world's politics, civil government, business maxims, and social customs.

Often have I felt constrained to bring these peculiarities to your notice and do now pause before opening the text to emphasize the deep and far-reaching significance of one proposition including them all.

Never, for a moment, did He allow the transitory excitements and complications of earthly politics, business, or society to overshadow and subordinate His interest in and attention to His divine mission—the salvation of lost men.

For example: First, He never accepted an invitation that did not include His disciples. He and His people were one, in His mind. A would-be host ashamed of the poorest of His followers could not have Jesus for a guest. Ah, me! That we should go where Jesus would not be welcome! Second, He would accept no invitation that estopped His teaching. Who would not hear His doctrine could not have His company. Do we ever frequent places whose character or etiquette would close the mouth of testimony for Christ? Third, He would accept no invitation that barred access to Him by the needy and perishing. As if He had said, "O Pharisee, I will dine with thee provided the woman who is a sinner may approach me even at thy table; provided this afflicted man may come and be healed even as I eat." Here is persistent devotion to one great life purpose. Christ's people should be imitators of Him.

The four facts cited previously, the healing of the dropsical man at a Sabbath feast, the consequent lesson on the proper uses of that holy day in works of mercy, the rebuke of the proud or selfish guests who, unsolicited, took the chief and best places at the feast, the great lesson to the host suggesting the invitation of guests who could not reciprocate the favor—these constitute the prelude to our text.

Some Like Religious Platitudes Who Do Not Here and Now Take Christ

One of the guests, feeling the unique presence and mysterious power of the Great Teacher and feeling called upon to say something in response to such unusual doctrine, which he never intended to accept or obey, sought to present himself in the unmeaning platitude: "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" But not for one moment did it hide him. Quicker than echo responds to the original sound, our Lord exposed his cant and swept away his glittering but unmeaning generality by the Parable of the Great Supper.

What! Did Jesus rebuke a man for repeating a proverb axiomatically true? Was not this man's mind turning from an earthly dining to the heavenly feast in the kingdom of God? Ah! Do you hear him, how piously and unctuously he says, "All this talk is about an earthly dining on gross viands that perish with the using, and unimportant invitations thereto, but I say, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God."

Let us study this interesting man somewhat. He is a type. He represents a large class. When you analyze him you may classify a multitude in every generation. The analysis is not difficult. You may delineate him with one stroke of the pencil. Balaam is his prototype. Hear wicked Baalam and understand this man: "Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his!" Why not rather say, "Let me live the life of the righteous, then will my last end be like his"?

In other words, when our Lord persistently urged immediate acceptance of the gospel and conformity to it now and here, this man sought to evade present obligations in this life by a compliment to the blessedness of the life to come. Evidently so, or there would be no pertinence in the Parable of the Great Supper, which constitutes our Saviour's reply to the platitude. In that parable, on various and slight pretexts, those invited to the gospel feast decline to come now. Is it possible, then, that in every generation, multitudes evade home thrusts on immediate and personal religion by resorting to vague compliments and glittering generalities? It is not only possible, but is an everyday occurrence.

From what definite source it came, I cannot now recall, but I have surely heard or read what purports to be a true story of a worldly-wise old man advising his son after this fashion: "My boy, be careful of your attitude toward religion, for it is a power in the land. Be neither so foolish as to oppose it outright, nor to become a servant of it. By compliments and glittering generalities you may evade obedience to it in heart and life, leaving the brethren always hopeful that you are near the kingdom; and by praising any of its given enterprises you may dodge all its calls for contribution by regretfully objecting to some detail of plan or method."

It is a great pity that many church members are largely following this wicked old man's advice to this wicked son, and I doubt not that, being imbued with the same spirit here on earth, they will gravitate toward the same destiny in the next world. What, then, was the value of this cheap exclamation of the fellow-guest of Jesus? It had no appreciable value. It was a miserable subterfuge, justly obnoxious, and meriting the scathing rebuke of Jesus. Let it serve our present purpose as the basis of three thoughts, the first and main thought is

Now or Never

Your predilection for Heaven, your desire to be saved hereafter, your willingness at the end of the world to be counted among the saved, amounts to nothing in the world except to expose the shallowness of your heart, unless you are willing to take the kingdom of God now. Let us illustrate. When Paul reasoned of righteousness and temperance and judgment to come, "Felix trembled." He saw the end of the wicked; he saw the outcome of a wicked life; and that outcome was unpleasant to him: he trembled. And if it had been said to Felix, "Do you want your last end to be that of the wicked, do you want to reach the terminus of the road that you are now on?" his reply would have been: "I tremble to think about it; I do not want to get there." Now, mark: he said to Paul, "Go thy way for this time. At a more convenient season I will send for thee." Paul might well have rejoined: "If you are unwilling now to turn from your evil ways, if you are unwilling to be a Christian, if you are unwilling just at this very moment to place yourself in alignment with God's cause and His people, in all human probability you will be unwilling at the judgment and are sure to stand in this class. 'Verily, verily, I say unto you that none of them that were bidden shall taste of my supper'."

Now, I conceive this to be the most important lesson deducible from this Scripture. So, if one reprobate in life shall say, "I am saved by grace and the grace of God brings salvation and that salvation means future eternal life," to him I quote the Scripture, "The grace of God that bringeth salvation teaches us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world." And, indeed, whoever is not willing now and here, now in youth, now in middle life, now under the difficulties which are on us, to take Heaven, will not have Heaven then.

I do wish you could get that thought in you as I see it, as I feel it. Take you just as you sit before me this morning—if you say to me that you would like

(Continued on page 4)

Two More Reasons for Winning Souls

(Continued from page 2)

nothing helped. He kept wasting away and never came back home until they brought him back in a coffin, ready to be buried.

Dr. Eaton said you could now go back to that house and you would see there by the fireplace a big box. It was well padded with an old quilt. And there is an old dog with gray around his muzzle. His teeth are bad. They cook special food for him every day. If he tracks in mud they just pat him. If he comes up to the table and wants anything, he can have it. Everybody makes way for him. Everybody pets him. He can have anything in the world. He does not have to stay out in the cold; he has a bed right by the fireplace. There is such a difference; everybody remembers that the last time the baby brother ever said anything to them he said, "Please be good to my dog." They did not care so much about the dog; but the last thing baby brother said to them he asked them to be good to this dog.

And Dr. Eaton said, "Maybe you don't care about people; maybe you don't care about drunkards and harlots. You call the Chinese Chinks and the Italians Dagos. The Mexicans you call Greasers. The Bohemians you call Bohunks. The colored people you call 'niggers.' Maybe you do not care. But Jesus does!" As long as there is one poor soul in the world who does not know Him how can you please Jesus without loving that soul?

I went one time on a tour of nightly engagements for a mission, a great city rescue mission. The man at the head of it said to the people. "Of course, I don't like these drunkards any better than you do. My wife and I do not enjoy dealing with that class of people any more than you do. But of course somebody has to do it." In my heart I said, "O God, don't let me ever feel that way about drunkards and harlots." I said to myself, "I don't see how he can succeed." And in six months he was out and gone.

Listen to me! You cannot please Jesus Christ without loving souls. If you ever plan to please Jesus Christ and make Him happy, you must win souls. "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied" (Isa. 53:11). Oh, go bring them in! Tell them to get ready to come and sit down at the welcome table. Get everybody saved you can!

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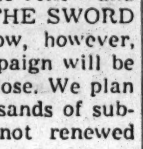

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"Now Is the Day of Salvation"

(Continued from page 3)

to be a Christian hereafter, that you would like to enter Heaven, that you would not like to make your final home in Hell, but yet do not want to be a Christian now, I say to you, you will never be, and that you will be in Hell unless before God's day of grace passes you have repented and taken an entirely different position from the one that you now occupy. And I say unto you that until you do change, you have not one single promise of God to which you can lay any claim, not one.

Still more, all the while you wait to change, the place you occupy is one of absolute and utter exposal to eternal death. Young you may be, beautiful you may be, talented you may be, rich you may be, with many friends you may be, amiable in disposition you may be, but you are occupying a position unlighted by any promise of God and with every moral probability that you will spend eternity in Hell. That is the first thought in this lesson. Let it sink deep in your heart. The second thought is

Delay on Any Pretext Is Idolatry

It places some creatures above the Creator, as appears from the frivolous excuses in the parable. The reason men assign, or the reason in their hearts for not accepting Christ and Heaven immediately, thoroughly **demonstrates** idolatry.

Let us look at the reasons assigned here: "I do not want to take Heaven just now, because for the present my mind is more interested in my oxen; my mind accounts as more pleasurable, more important, the social relations of life, the pleasures of life."

If you count anything, no matter how lawful and innocent in itself, like industry, like having or acquiring property, like marriage or giving in marriage; if you count anything at this moment more important than reconciliation with God, not only is it probable that you will forever so count them, but it reveals this state of your heart, that you don't know what a sinner you are, and don't realize what kind of a sinner you are. You have dethroned God and placed a creature over Him, even over God, who is blessed forever. You do say to Him that you esteem yourself more than Himself and give precedence to a farm, a yoke of oxen, a wife, a husband, a daughter, a brother, a sister, or a friend. You do, for this moment, deny the priority and paramount nature of God's sovereignty. And that is why, right after this lesson, that the Lord says: "If any man would come after me and hateth not his father and mother and brother and sister and wife, he cannot be my disciple."

It simply means this: That if you, just as you sit before me and hear me today—if you do not want to be a Christian now, if a different kind of life is more pleasurable to you, if some other business is more enjoyable to you, it shows that you are in an attitude of open rebellion against God. It shows that in your secret heart you deny all the application of the first and great commandment. In showing that you are putting the creature above the Creator, who is blessed forever; it also shows that if the whole world occupied the position that you occupy, then God would be dethroned throughout the world in the minds of men.

Now, what is the third thought of this lesson? We gather it from a comparison between the revelation of character in the Parable of the Great Supper and the more developed character revealed in the later Parable of the Marriage Feast. In the first, those who refuse to come occupy a polite attitude toward religion. They render excuses more or less plausible and indulge in complimentary platitudes toward the outcome of religion: "Blessed is the man that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God." Nearer the crucifixion all pretenses are laid aside and the objector not only becomes abusive and hostile, but murderous. Read, compare the two parables, and see. This leads to the third thought:

The Most Polite Excuse Has in It the Germ of Subsequent Hate and Murder

I do not affirm that the subject is conscious of it. Like Hazael, to whom the prophet foretold his future crimes, this man of platitudes and polite excuses might sincerely say, "Is thy servant a dog that he should do this thing?" But character evolves and tends to fixity of type. You do not believe this possible now because you cannot realize it. But it is true nevertheless that your present polite refusal to accept Christ's invitation has in it the germ of murderous, malicious, and eternal hostility to Heaven; all it needs is time for development and occasions for display.

Just as sure as these men who in the Parable of the Supper occupy a polite attitude are guilty in the later parable of killing the servants of Jesus Christ and murdering Christ Himself, so that will be the attitude of your mind. Do not forget it—that will be your attitude. You are on the road that goes to that place. You are under the guidance of principles that by an irresistible tendency will take you right there. You are under the power of a law more imperious than the law of gravitation that will drag you to the deeper and darker depths. You are in a current, or tide, bearing to that destiny that increases in its speed, volume, and momentum and ever thus increases in power and weight so as to necessitate that you shall go right there. Now, is that true?

Let me illustrate a case, I shall put it in an extreme form. Take a very intelligent, bright, pleasant, amiable young woman, and if that young woman today, right now, at this very moment, does not wish to be a Christian, she is in that current that I speak of. There will come a time when she will knowingly hate God and will love to hate Him. There will come a time when there will be in her heart the most murderous and malicious hostility to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It will come. And though you are unconscious of it, it is there now. The potentialities of it are there. You only need the favorable opportunities for its development; it is there.

Should we shut our eyes to these facts? Why should we blind ourselves with excuses? "Verily I say unto you that none of those who were bidden shall taste my supper." The thought of this presses on my heart. The question rises in my heart: Is it possible that we can get the young people of this day to see the significance of just this one fact? "I do not want to be a Christian right now, but I do want to get to Heaven at last." "Blessed is the man that will hereafter eat bread in the kingdom of God."

O dear friends, will you ever realize this: That Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people, and that the preparation of those people does not take place hereafter? It does not take place at the judgment. It will be too late then. Repentance will be too late then. Knocking at the door will be too late then. Calling for mercy will be too late then. The hour of decision will be past then. Heaven is a place for a prepared people, and the people who enter Heaven are prepared for Heaven here on this earth, in time, and nowhere else.

I say again to you what you have heard me say many times, and I expect to keep on saying it as long as I live: That the most important question on this earth is the settlement of your relation with God. That takes precedence over every other thing, and there is nothing to be mentioned in comparison with the settlement of this question. And you can settle it

(Continued on page 5)

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Success or Failure In the Christian Life?

(Continued from page 1)

and neighbors what Christ means to you. It will be contagious if you, by His grace, regardless of the cost, live, stand, speak and work for Him. Let us be willing to suffer and, if called upon, die for our Lord.

These verses should challenge and warn us, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32, 33).

Every time you witness for your Saviour you deepen your faith and renew your strength. Buy up every chance to confess that He is Master of your life. It will prove one of the greatest safeguards against failure.

3. Maintain Morning Devotions

Jesus pled with His disciples in the Garden to "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matt. 26:41). Satan will probably thrust temptations across our path this year that we have never faced before. Our enemy will try to dim or extinguish our light. He will hurl fiery darts at us and we must be prepared for his attacks.

We should spend at least 15 to 30 minutes every morning alone with God in Bible study and prayer. How blessed to be able to sing truthfully, "Sweet Hour of Prayer!" Make this "quiet time" the inflexible habit of our daily life. Nothing should be allowed to prevent our keeping this daily appointment with the King. What a thrill and blessing—to meet God, to talk to Him, to have Him talk to us through the Word, to discover His will and to receive wisdom, guidance and power for a day of Victory. He will enable us to live it—"Moment by Moment!"

At these devotions all known sin should be confessed and forsaken. It should be a time of checking up. It must be a time of quietness and fresh surrender each morning. If you say, "I am too busy," then you are just "too busy!"

"Take time to be holy
Speak oft with thy Lord;
Commune with Him always
And feed on His Word."

Paul says, "Pray without ceasing" (I Thes. 5:17). Since "prayer is the Christian's vital breath," be sure that you have plenty of spiritual breath to "run with patience the race that is set before you." Daniel prayed three times a day. That is the secret of his being able to purpose in his heart that he would not defile himself with evil. David's testimony is, "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray" (Psa. 55:17).

Lift your heart to God constantly in prayer as you go about your work. He will answer every question! He will solve every problem! He will lift every burden! He will supply every need! Keep your heart tuned to heaven. Prayer removes the static and gives you a clear channel to the Throne of Grace.

Try reading your Bible on your knees. Thank Jesus again and again for saving you and tell Him over and over that you love Him. Believe the promises, obey the commands, and heed the warnings of God's Word. Read it as His message to your heart. Love, Learn and Live the Bible. It should be in your Heart, Head, Hand and Home. "The Bible will keep you from sin. Sin will keep you from the Bible!"

4. Be a Worker—Not a Shirker!

Be an active member of a spiritual church. Associate with the saints of God. "Birds of a feather flock together." John tells us, "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren" (I John 3:14). Cultivate a sympathetic and loving attitude toward everyone. Don't become critical. Don't live in the "objective case." Prayer helps but criticism hurts. Be a helper!

Pray for your pastor. Be regular in attending Sunday School, morning and evening services, prayer meeting and special evangelistic services. Take others with you to the services. As the Lord leads, and as you are prepared, teach a class. Always partake of the Lord's Supper in humility and as you do, pledge to Him your love and loyal service. Be a winner of souls. Strive prayerfully to win one or more each week. Have many names on your prayer list. Pray for them and speak to them.

Get a team of workers, order sufficient tracts, and see that every family has a tract left in their door. Dedicate your time and talents to God's service. Be a laborer and not a loiterer in the vineyard of the Lord. Pray this prayer every morning, "Lord help me to Know, Love and Do

(Continued on page 5)

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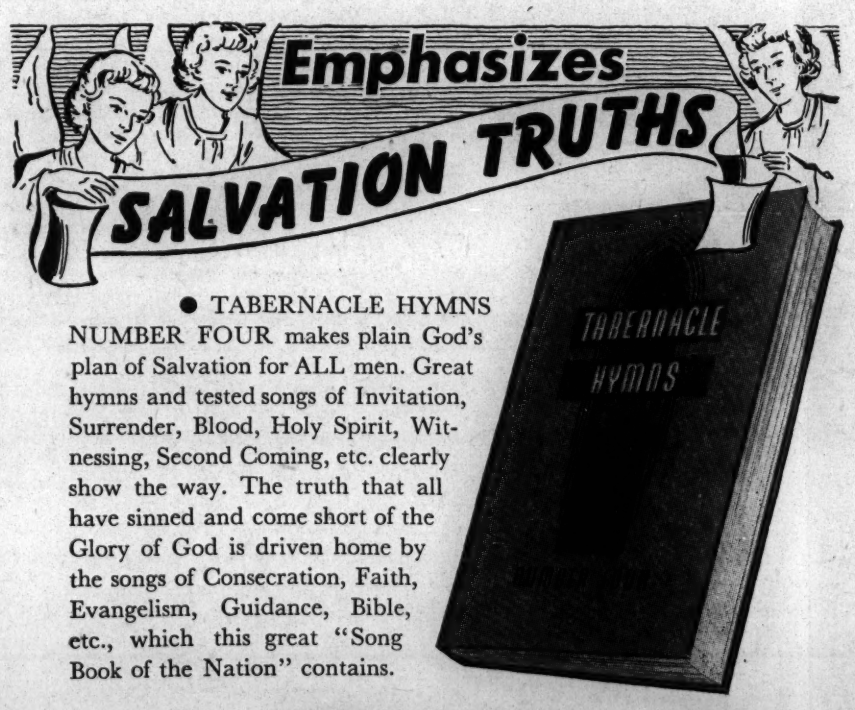

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With the Evangelists

Reports From America's Outstanding Soul Winners

By the Editor

Dr. Clifford Lewis at Baptist Tabernacle, Atlanta

Dr. Paul S. James, pastor of the Baptist Tabernacle, Atlanta, Georgia, writes of a blessed revival in that historic church where Dr. Lynn G. Broughton, Dr. John W. Hamm and Dr. Will Houghton have been some of the pastors preceding Dr. James. Dr. Clifford Lewis of Winona Lake, Indiana, did the preaching, Jack Jones was song leader with choirs of nearly one hundred voices. There were thirty confessions of faith during the revival, twenty-five for membership as candidates for baptism. Twenty-nine others came by statement and letter and there were thirty-five rededications to Christ.

Dr. James says:

"We thank God for Clifford Lewis. His sincerity is crystal clear. His passion for souls is contagious. His messages come with convicting power. His consecrated energy stabs indifferent Christians awake, and makes it possible for God to move with power. We had a great revival."

Jim Mercer in Union Campaign Brantford, Ontario

Evangelist Jim Mercer of 1222 W. 50th St., Minneapolis, has recently closed a union revival campaign in the city of Brantford, Ontario, Canada. The Palermo Brothers of Youth for Christ fame led the music for the three weeks. Local leaders say that it was the greatest spiritual stirring in the city for ten years. Their Youth for Christ headquarters writes, "There were approximately seventy first-time decisions and a great number of consecrations and deeper-life decisions. There were some outstanding conversions, including more than one husband and wife, young people, and one drunkard woman. As a result of the campaign, other cities in the region are planning for similar campaigns in the spring and fall of 1950."

Evangelist F. A. Wirth Reports Two Revivals

Evangelist F. A. Wirth of 221 S. Main St., Petersburg, Illinois, in November had a good revival campaign with the First Baptist Church at Belmond, Iowa. "Several accepted Christ as Saviour, others came to surrender for service. Many started family altars in their home." In December, Brother Wirth had a revival campaign at the Odd Fellows Hall at St. Charles, Minnesota, supported by several pastors and churches. The Bishops of Chicago were in charge of the song services and were a great blessing to all who heard them. There were large crowds and many conversions. Pray for this fine evangelist.

"Preaching Lawyer Becomes Evangelist."

Clifton W. Brannon of Longview, Texas, nationally known corporation Lawyer has entered the Evangelistic field as an Independent Evangelist.

For more than ten years Mr. Brannon has been prominent in religious circles, as an attorney for religious interest and as a lay speaker. He was attorney for Winona Lake Christian Assembly and member of its board of directors. He obtained the present charter for the corporation. During this time he represented one of the major oil companies of the nation and for 10 years was general counsel for the largest earth-moving equipment manufacturing corporation in the world. Having felt a definite call to the ministry, Mr. Brannon resigned 15 different offices in various corporations, including a directorship in the Lone Star Steel Company and the vice presidency of a casualty insurance firm.

Mr. Brannon has appeared before audiences in most of the states of the nation, and is widely known as a militant, fearless and courageous preacher of the Gospel.

The spirited preaching of the evangelist has drawn crowds wherever he has gone, it is said that Mr. Brannon prays: "Lord, set me on fire so the crowd may come to see me burn," and his preaching reflects that he is truly on fire for God. Mr. Brannon brings into his sermon presentation, "the earnest logic and fiery appeal" of a lawyer pleading for a verdict before a jury.

Before his ordination to the gospel ministry, Mr. Brannon was an active lay leader in Baptist circles for 10 years. During that time he was the director of a religious radio broadcast heard weekly over a network of stations for more than 400 consecutive Sunday broadcast, and also supplied various church pulpits for periods ranging from one to 11 months, all of which well qualifies him in the field of pastoral evangelism.

Mr. Brannon since 1947 has served as first vice president of the Baptist Brotherhood of Texas, and at the last Baptist General Convention in El Paso he was elected president of the State Brotherhood. He is married and has three children, the family make their home at 626 Electra St., Longview, Texas.

Pastor Reports 15 Saved in Eddie Wagner Services

In a revival effort at First Brethren Church, Clayton, Ohio, Evangelist Eddie Wagner of 224 Summit, Little Rock, Arkansas, did the preaching. From the church bulletin we quote the following enthusiastic words by the pastor:

"Fifteen people came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and also one rededication. For this we are indeed very grateful to the Lord for allowing us to enjoy these blessings and to have a part in bringing these souls to Christ. Beyond these visible results it is impossible to calculate decisions made in the hearts of members of this Church and other Christian friends to live closer to Him and to serve Him better.

"Truly it was a thrill to hear the Lord pouring forth His Word mightily through Bro. Wagner, and to see the auditorium well filled night after night. He really put his heart and soul into every sermon, every call, and every prayer meeting—and the Lord gave the increase.

"The Evangelist and Pastor made about 170 calls and conducted afternoon and evening prayer sessions each day."

Dr. Warren Walker, Evangelist, Commended by Pastor After Great Revival

Pastor Earl C. Whitsitt, of First Baptist Church, Bastrop, Louisiana, sends the following account of a revival in his church:

"First Baptist Church, Bastrop, Louisiana, experienced a glorious revival the last two weeks in November under the leadership and preaching of Dr. Warren Walker, noted Southern Baptist evangelist of Jacksonville, Florida. There were 157 additions to the church, 101 of which came on profession of faith and for baptism. The Rev. Earl C. Whitsitt has been pastor of the church since August 1946. During the second week of the revival the pastor baptized an average of eleven candidates each night at the beginning of the evangelistic service. The other candidates are being baptized on subsequent Sunday nights. Pastor Whitsitt believes that Warren Walker is one of the sanest, safest, soundest, and strongest evangelists among Southern Baptists."

HEBREW CHRISTIANS AT END OF ROPE

Rev. Jacob Peltz

NEEDED FOOD RESTORES FAITH

A distracted Hebrew Christian mother in Germany writes: "Your food and clothing parcels took three months to reach us due to the Berlin blockade. You cannot imagine what your gifts mean to us. My daughter is suffering from T.B. and my little boy is sickly because of undernourishment. My husband has worked little since he came back from the Concentration Camp, I was at the end of my rope, for in addition to our hunger we were without heat in the bitter winter. So when your parcels came we saw the hand of God in miracle. How grateful we feel, for not only were our bodies fed and clothed, but our wavering faith in our merciful Saviour was restored."

The matron of a children's home in Germany writes: "Full of joy and gratitude we received two of your shipments. To one girl I gave a velvet dress, and you should have seen her joy. Her father and mother were killed, the grandmother, a sister and one brother live in a work-kitchen, with only one bed, one table, and not enough chairs for all. In the evening the children lie on the earthen floor upon sacks. We look after 60 children, and we need especially money for food. Poverty and suffering amongst the families we visit is still very great. Many fathers have returned from Russian prisons weak and tubercular. Please pray for us as we seek to comfort and help these poor people."

For these and others in poverty and distress, to whom we minister in so many areas in Europe and in Palestine, we earnestly ask your prayers and gifts. Please look with the compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ upon these His needy brethren, and help to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and promulgate the Gospel. Kindly send your gifts to us at this time of great need and opportunity.

A folder of "News Letters from Hebrew Christians in Europe" sent on request.

Address gifts and communications to:

The International Hebrew Christian Alliance

Rev. Jacob Peltz, Ph.B., B.D., Secretary

Dept. L

U.S.A.
4919 N. Albany Ave.
Chicago 25, Illinois

Canada
91 Bellevue Ave.
Toronto, Ontario

Success or Failure in the Christian Life?

(Continued from page 4)

Thy will for my life." Through prayer and surrender you can discover His plan for your life at home or abroad. From a sincere heart answer, "Here am I, Lord, send me!"

5. Be Unselfish

First of all, present yourself, body, soul and spirit upon His altar. Then give your tithe to the Lord and then present gifts as you are able. The liberal soul shall be made fat" (Prov. 11:25). "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:6-7).

You cannot beat God giving. And remember—it is not how much we give but how much we have left to use on ourselves that we better consider carefully. Don't cheat or hold out on God. "Giving" and "Growing" are very closely connected.

6. Keep On Keeping On!

Don't let anyone or anything discourage you in the work for Christ. We are partners with Him in the greatest job in the world—winning the lost. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). Peter tells us to "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Growth comes through nourishment and exercise.

Keep your eyes on the Lord. If you keep close to Him, you will grow and develop into a strong Christian. Paul warns us, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Cor. 10:12). Overconfidence, and lack of dependence upon Jesus have been the downfall of many. Keep humble at His feet. Do not trust your own strength but trust Him. "...without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). On the other hand, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

If you should fail or fall in any way, confess your sin immediately and start over. Don't brood over your trouble but confess the sin and leave it with the Lord. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

Let us say with Paul, "Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13, 14 R.V.).

May all of us meditate and profit by the message in this poem:

THE SECRET

I met God in the morning,
When my day was at its best;
And His presence came like sunrise
With a glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me;
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed,
But the winds that seemed to drive drive them,
Brought to us both peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,
With a keen remorse of mind,
When I, too, had loosed the moorings,
With the Presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way;
You must seek Him in the morning,
If you want Him through the day.

—Ralph Cushman

"Now Is the Day of Salvation"

(Continued from page 4)

right and be as happy in the married life, and happier; you can settle it on your farm and be as happy, and happier; on your farm. You can settle it and enjoy any form of honorable industry, and enjoy it more, but it claims precedence, this relation with God. We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and then the lesser blessings will be added. And that is what the gospel says, and I echo its voice now—"Come, for all things are now ready." Come now, or never. Not to come now is to be shut out forever. Now, may the Lord impress that on your mind!

I want us to pray about that very thing. I want every Christian heart to join in the prayer that the souls of the unprepared may be made to feel this: "No matter what I may desire about the outcome, no matter how much I may hope to enter Heaven and shun Hell, unless I am now ready, now willing, now anxious to take hold of eternal life, I cannot take it then." "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near." There will be a time when He cannot be found. There will be a time when prayers will not avail.

I see before me the picture presented in the Bible, a man who had a birthright and who despised it as a profane person. We think of a profane person as one who curses, but here profanity means lack of esteem for sacred things—things that relate to God, to hold them in slight esteem. Now, says Paul, "Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."

Is it possible that some here in this house, whose faces we see, whose person we esteem—is it possible, dear friends, that at the coming of Christ we shall see you, the tears running down your face, horror in your heart, unspeakable anguish exhibited in your every feature, standing at the gate of Heaven and knocking, standing, and praying, "Lord, Lord, open to me; it is dark out here; O Lord, open to me," and hearing the awful words. "Ye cannot enter now; too late, too late"?

I tell you, the question is not decided there and then. It is decided now and here. And how will you decide it? What measure do you propose? If not ready now, when will you be ready? What possible help for you is there in procrastination, irresolution, and inaction? While we pray for you, why will you not also pray? Say to Him, "Lord, I come now. I do not stop for a more convenient time. I act today. I throw down my empty pretexts and excuses, and, just as I am, here I come, right now, and I say, 'God be merciful to me, a sinner.'"

(From *Revival Messages* by B. H. Carroll. Published by Zondervan Bros. Used by permission.)

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Rolfe Barnard Returns to Full-time Evangelistic Work

By the Editor

THE SWORD OF THE LORD has occasionally published sermons by Evangelist Rolfe Barnard. We have known him for years. He is a solid, Bible-preaching evangelist of deep earnestness and sincerity, a fearless preacher against sin, a voice crying in the wilderness. He has been used of God in blessed revivals, both in one-church meetings and in union campaigns, through the last fifteen or seventeen years, as I recall.

For the last two years, he has been teaching in the Piedmont Bible Schools at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, carrying on revival services in the evening, while he trained soul winners in the daytime. Now he feels led of God to go full time into the evangelistic field.

We have the most enthusiastic comment by President Charles H. Stevens, of the Piedmont Bible Schools and pastor of the Salem Baptist Church, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Our beloved Brother Stevens says:

"After two years of profitable service, Evangelist Rolfe Barnard has resigned his teaching ministry with the Piedmont Bible Schools in order to give his full time to evangelism. Mr. Barnard has done a marvelous work during the two years he has been with the Institute serving in a double capacity, both as evangelist and teacher. He would teach in the daytime and then drive, sometimes fifty and sixty miles, to preach in the evenings. His connection with the school has proved

Rolfe Barnard

to be a distinctive blessing. He has become a favorite with the students and the faculty. His evangelistic work has been outstanding. Those of us who know Mr. Barnard best consider him among the few outstanding evangelists in America. While all of us regret to see him leave, we can well understand the difficulty that he has faced during the last two years under this double responsibility. We are still hoping, even though he will not be on hand as a regular teacher, that we may have him for some two months each winter to come in and lecture on evangelism.

"As Mr. Barnard returns to the all-important work of evangelism he carries with him the highest respect from the trustees, the faculty and the student body, together with the sincere prayer for his continued success. Mr. Barnard is different from all other evangelists on the American continent in his approach and methods. His marvelous Scriptural interpretation together with his passionate appeal combine to make him forceful and constructive. We are bespeaking for him the greatest success and already invitations are coming from many of the large churches in this section."

Brother Barnard's connection with the Piedmont Bible Schools closes on January 31, 1950. He will be immediately available anywhere in the United States.

These are some of the fine qualifications of this blessed man of God.

First, he is well trained, a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Second, he has a deep integrity of soul which makes him independent and reliable. He does not follow the winds of fashion, but hews to a sharp line of deep convictions, all the way.

Third, he has a certain pungency of expression, a deeply moving passion, which has profoundly affected me again and again as I heard him preach. He stirs my soul deeply. He has been greatly used of God in changing Christians and in winning hardened sinners.

Sound in doctrine, fervent in spirit, trustworthy and ethical, you may trust this experienced, strong preacher.

Brother Barnard's address is 726 S. Sunset Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD will be glad to answer any further questions about Brother Barnard, which he can, and when we can furnish abundant references. He ought to be used in the larger churches and in union campaigns continually.

America! Quit Insulting God!

(Continued from page 1)

dreds of homes in every city, town, and community all you hear from early morning until late at night is profanity. You hear it on the streets, in filling stations, garages, stores, shops, factories, on the farm, in fact you hear it everywhere. In many homes the women swear worse than the men. You would think Jesus Christ was the worst wretch ever to set foot upon earth the way His name is dragged in all manner of filthy, blasphemous conversation.

Many of you who hear me this morning are insulting God in this way. Why do you swear anyway? It is not a mark of culture or refinement, it is not an evidence of true manhood or womanhood.

Some days ago, while preparing a message in an upstairs room where I was entertained, the air was filled with the most blasphemous swearing I have heard for many a day. Some boys were playing on the lawn before the house. One little lad, I don't think he was more than ten years old, was swearing louder than all the rest.

Calling to him I said, "Sonny, come here a moment!"

"Do you mean me?" he asked.

"Yes, I mean you. Tell me, who taught you to swear like that? I've never heard a boy in my life swear like you can!"

A grin came over his features until it spread from ear to ear and he replied, "If you think I know how to swear, you should hear my Dad. HE KNOWS HOW!"

Don't laugh, my friends, this should make us weep! Remember what God said, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." (Exo. 20:7).

Yes, we are insulting God through our profanity.

2. We Are Insulting God by Our Ingratitude

Think of the daily mercies we receive from His hand! Church members by the hundreds sit down to meals and never once think of thanking God for the food they eat. Even a hog will grunt before it eats. Many of you who hear me, when mother cries, "Come and get it," you come to the table, load your plate, and shovel it down without a word of thanks. All you hear in many homes is, "You big hog, you took the biggest piece of meat!"

You were brought up in a Christian home, do you remember how each day your father and mother took time to read the Word of God and have prayer with the family? What a blessing it was! Since then you have married, you have a home of your own, yet you are not giving your family the same heritage God gave to you! You are a professed Christian, a member of the church, yet your children have never heard you read God's Word in your home; they have never heard you pray. God help you to see how much you are missing! The lack of prayer in our homes is one reason why we are in such a low spiritual condition today. Our young people are ignorant of the truths of God's Word.

I am honest when I say that I do not think I would be speaking to you this morning were it not for the family altar of my father and mother. My folks were very poor when I was a boy. Many a day all I had to eat was some bread with lard on it and some carrots. I slept in the unfinished upstairs of our home on a strawtick mattress. But there was one thing I had that was worth more than riches, it was a praying father and mother who determined to bring up their family in the way of the Lord.

Oh, what blessing a family altar would bring to your home!

3. We Are Insulting God by the Liquor Drinking in Our Homes

What can we expect when church members will go to the liquor stores as well as to drug stores and groceries and buy liquor and give it to their children?

"Oh," you say, "I don't see any harm in a little drink once in awhile. I don't think it hurts anybody!"

Listen to me! This is where drunkards begin! They form the taste for liquor in the home, the habit fastens itself upon them, and in God's sight YOU ARE TO BLAME! You are doing just what the liquor interests want you to do, and do you mean to tell me, that you, a professed Christian, want to aid and support the liquor forces of America?

Do you know that we have over 350,000 saloons in America, and over 400,000 other places where liquor is sold? Consider these facts:—

We have 5 saloons to every school.

We have 2 saloons to every church.

We have 1 saloon to every 51 families in America.

I want you to do some constructive thinking. Do you know how much money we spent for liquor in America last year? If I gave you the round figure you wouldn't be able to grasp it, it's so great!

Let me put it this way; then you will clearly see the way we are traveling. We spent $86.00 for every man, woman and child in America JUST FOR LIQUOR. And what do we receive in exchange for it? I'll tell you—divorce, juvenile deliquency, crime, insanity, suicide, and Hell at the end. Don't tell me we are not insulting God! Oh, how we need this national spiritual awakening!

I told you we spent $86.00 per person just for the liquor. Now tell me, how much do you think we gave for church purposes to tell the world of the power of Christ to save and to bless? Listen to me now! For all church purposes, all denominations gave PASTOR'S SALARIES, for heat and light, for *church and Sunday School periodicals*, for all *our missionary giving*, both for home and world missions—in fact the entire church program of America, we gave but $5.56. Think of it, $86.00 for liquor —$5.56 for Christ!

I say to you who listen that unless we repent of our sin, the judgment of God shall surely fall upon us! Do you wonder now why I am so concerned, why I urge you who are Christians to get behind us of "CHRIST FOR AMERICA" as we go forward with this national program? Then too—

II.
We Are Insulting God in Our School Life

Let me try to picture to you the average school in America today. I need not mention the profanity you hear on the school grounds. You know it is heard everywhere. But, first, let us look back over the past.

Years ago it was our custom in America to begin our school day with the reading of God's Word and prayer. I remember well the red brick school house which I attended as a boy. I walked two miles and a half each way. There were no school busses in those days. All eight grades were taught in the same room by the same teacher. All denominations, all classes of children were represented.

There were Protestants, Catholics, and Jews, all in the same school room; but no one was offended, no one was hurt or embarrassed by the daily reading of God's Word and prayer. The teacher was daily sowing the seed which produces the highest type of citizenship. Oh, how we need to reestablish the reading of the Word of God and prayer in the schools of America today!

Our Gradual Steps Downward

Let me show you how we are insulting God through our schools. Years ago we had a Christian man in America by the name of McGuffy. He gave to us the wonderful McGuffy Readers in which the children of every grade were taught the highest ideals of Christian character and citizenship through stories and parables taken from God's Word.

Do you know what happened? The atheistic, communistic gang who are out to take over America said, "We can never make America communistic as long as these McGuffy Readers are in our schools. WE MUST GET RID OF THESE McGUFFY READERS! So they started the propaganda which was circulated through educational circles and Parent-Teachers Associations that the McGuffy Readers were obsolete, no longer satisfactory for this advanced age. As a result, the Readers were thrown out of our schools and modern readers, omitting Bible stories, etc., were substituted instead.

And then—made bold by the success of this first move, they planned a still greater campaign. They would stop the reading of the Word of God and prayer. Again the propaganda machine was put to work. We were told that reading God's Word was harmful, that this pertained only to the church, that there must be absolute separation of church and state!

Listen to me, can you or anyone else show me one single instance of anyone ever harmed by the reading of God's Word and prayer in our schools? Be honest with me, you cannot find one.

Well, the atheistic, communistic crowd won. They kicked the Bible out of our schools and put the dance in its place. I do not hesitate to tell you that regardless of your position on dancing, IT HAS NO PLACE IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS! One high school superintendent told me that 143 girls in his school became unwed mothers in a single year, and some were only thirteen years old! This is the by-product of the dance. What else can you expect?

Oh, how we need teachers in our schools who are true to God! I thank God for every teacher who stands in our schools as a defender of God's Word, who openly confesses Christ. I am glad we have as many as we do. Fathers and mothers, hold up the hands of such teachers, commend them for

(Continued on page 8)

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Answer to A Catholic Priest

(Continued from page 1)

Christians. Before you speak on such matters, you should have both information and sincerity. I trust you have the sincerity and not the information. If you have the information, then how could you be sincere in professing such kindly attitude toward true worshippers of Christ?

Christ's True Church Not a Huge, Worldly Denominational Machine

2. You speak plaintively of the fact that there are various divisions of Protestantism. However, several things need to be said to clarify that point. The most important is that you have wholly misunderstood the prayer of Jesus that His disciples might be one. You think He was talking about one great earthly organization, but you get your idea from your Catholic background and do not get it from the Bible at all. If you were really anxious to know the will of God and would go with an unbiased mind to the New Testament, there you would find no hint of the great ecclesiastical and worldly machinery which is Romanism. Then there were independent local congregations of churches. Each one was called a church. Of about one hundred and twelve times that the word "ecclesia," is used in the Greek New Testament, fully ninety-eight or ninety-nine times it means a local congregation. The other times it refers to that mystical body of Christ, not a human organization at all, not a visible organization at all, into which every one who is truly converted, truly born again, is entered by the work of the Holy Spirit. Not one time is the word "church" in the Bible used to represent any human organization larger than one local congregation. When a group of local congregations are mentioned, they are called "churches" (plural, not singular), as in Galations 1:2, "the churches of Galatia" Galatians 1:22, "the churches of Judaea," and in Revelation 1:11, "the seven churches which are in Asia." So you see that while men seek to have an organic union, a big super, colossal, worldly empire with human wealth and human prestige, Jesus Christ simply prayed that Christians should be of one mind, of brotherly love and of unity of doctrine. The truth is that great, human organizations always tend away from the Bible and toward worldliness and sin, just as Romanism took up the holidays and worship forms of heathenism at the beginning of the Catholic church under Constantine (see any good encyclopedia), and just as the Federal Council of Churches in America among Protestants has done. What Jesus prayed for is that people would follow the Bible, take it at face value and agree together in brotherly love.

In this matter I practice what I preach. You speak of the divisions of Protestantism. The simple truth is that in spirit the great bulk of Protestants are in happy fellowship. My work, for example, is interdenominational and everywhere I go my doctrinal preaching on the great fundamentals of the Christian faith is accepted alike by all principal denominations. Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, United Brethren, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Assemblies of God and many other groups unite heartily under my preaching year in and year out. Different organizations do not imply strife and lack of unity of spirit.

Worship of Mary AntiChristian

3. You say, "How any one can claim to have read *The Sunday Visitor* for years and Cardinal Gibbon's *Faith of Our Fathers,* and still come up with the notion that Catholics worship Mary is a complete mystery to me." But you quibble when you say it. You know as well as I do that the adoration of Mary, the prayers to Mary, the exaltation of Mary amount to worship. You may remember that President Abraham Lincoln once asked, "If you count a dog's tail a leg, then how many legs does a dog have?" A friend answered, "Five." But Lincoln said, "No, even if you count a dog's tail a leg, it is still not a leg, and the dog only has four legs." In actual practice I well know and you do too, that multitudes of Catholics give far more attention to Mary than to Jesus Christ. They bow before shrines of Mary, but you say it is not worship. They adore Mary as the "Mother of God and Queen of Heaven," but you say it is not worship. They make their prayers to Mary, yet you say it is not worship. They ascribe her the sinless perfection which the Bible gives only to Christ, and yet you say it is not worship. Common people know better and certainly intelligent, unbiased scholars know better. You implied that I lied in saying I had read *The Sunday Visitor* and Cardinal Gibbon's *Faith of Our Fathers* and other Catholic authorities. I pass that by. That is a device of a debater who has a case too hard to prove and so must attack the character of his opponent. And to say that if I would read these things I would not understand them, is childish.

No Popes in Bible Times or Till Long After

4. You sent me a list of the popes according to Catholic tradition, in the little booklet, *The Truth About Catholics.* I have had a copy in my possession for years, studied it very carefully. However, a very embarrassing fact has occured. Within the last ninety days Catholic authorities have changed this list you sent me and a Vatican authority has published a new list, leaving out one or two of these, and I believe adding another. You will get it through official sources eventually. It merely illustrates the vagaries and unreliability of changing human tradition.

Actually, it is quite clear from history that there was no Catholic pope for the first three centuries. Peter is called "chief of the apostles," but not prince of the apostles, in the Bible. We are plainly told in Galatians 2:11-14 that Paul rebuked Peter to his face for being wrong. Paul did not accept the authority of Peter. In the first church council, which is recorded in Acts, chapter 15, we find that it was James who seems to have presided and who certainly gave the final sentence that circumcision and the ceremonial law were not to be required of Gentile converts. Peter was on a level with the other disciples. No reputable secular historian can give any evidence that Peter was ever at Rome. The Bible itself has all the evidence against it. For example, when Paul wrote the epistle to the Romans, Peter was not even mentioned as being at Rome, and was not addressed at all. Later, when Paul was in prison at Rome and wrote the Epistles of Philippians, I and II Timothy, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, he sent greetings from many others but no greetings from Peter, and no mention of Peter. Not a hint in the New Testament can be used as evidence that Peter was ever at Rome, and all secular historians know that no one assumed or was given the authority claimed by the papacy until centuries later.

To Follow Roman Tradition Is to Renounce the Bible.

5. You admit that "certainly the celibacy of the priesthood is an outgrowth of tradition . . . as all tradition must be based on sacred Scripture, so must this be and, as a matter of fact, is." No, that, is not based on Scripture but in fact exactly contradicts the Scripture for the Scripture plainly commands, "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife. . . having his children in subjection with all gravity" (I Tim. 3:2, 4). Read your note in new Catholic version, the Confraternity Translation of the New Testament. There your note says that this refers to priests and bishops. It is true that Paul urges those who can do so to "remain even as I," but clearly explains that this is not given to some, that it must be a matter of personal choice and that it is better to marry than to burn. The Bible exactly contradicts the tradition of the Roman church on this matter, as on many other matters.

6. You say, "You wonder where there is the 'Ave Maria' in the Scripture," and you quote from Luke 1:28. Of course all Bible readers know the words of the angel to Mary, but it was not a prayer. It was a simple address announcing she had been chosen to be the mother of Christ. It is far fetched indeed to have prayers addressed to Mary with any such title, and certainly nothing like that occurred in New Testament times.

You started your letter with a tribute to my sincerity. Then you accused me of lying about reading *The Sunday Visitor,* Cardinal Gibbon's *Faith of our Fathers,* then said, "You can't fool all the people all the time." Then you say, "Misquote me here sometime, if you please to." It appears to me you must be hard run for argument.

You are enthusiastistic about your church, but have you ever really been converted to Christ? You are enthusiastic in dogma, but do you know that your sins are forgiven, that your soul is saved and that you have everlasting life? That, dear friend, is far more important than this quibbling over human traditions and human organizations.

Under separate cover I am sending you my pamphlet, *Sermon From a Catholic Bible,* which is so kindly in tone and has been so widely received that I think you would be interested in it.

In Jesus' dear name, yours,
John R. Rice

Dr. Bob Jones Says:

Three years ago a young man came from Central America to attend Bob Jones University to prepare for the ministry. This young man, whose name is Virgil Zapata, is very athletic; but the "Gospel pull" is stronger in his heart than the pull of the world. This young ministerial student, who is now in his senior year, recently went to Guatemala City to compete in the preliminary trials to select the athletes to represent Guatemala in the Olympic games. While there, he took first place in the 200 meter race. Virgil and three other entrants won the 400 and 800 relay pattern. This means that Virgil will compete in the Central Olympics to be held in Guatemala in February and in the World Olympics in 1952. About forty thousand visitors will be in Guatemala for this great athletic festival. Many of them will be athletes. So when Virgil was down there recently, winning his honors, he was contacting ministers of the Gospel, trying to work out plans for an evangelistic campaign for the two weeks of the great athletic events in Guatemala City, which begin the last of February. He has the assurance of support to put on what he believes will be a successful evangelistic campaign. They have invited my son, Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., to go down at that time for this evangelistic meeting. Virgil hopes to be able to win some of these athletes to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The story of this young man who is preparing for the ministry trying to set up an evangelistic campaign to win the lost to Jesus Christ in Guatemala City and doing this while he is down there for great athletic events is in line with the emphasis which Bob Jones University has always given. We tell our students over and over again that their job is to witness for the Lord Jesus Christ and win the lost to Him. From the day Bob Jones University opened twenty-three years ago as Bob Jones College until this day, the founder, the president, and the executives have always endeavored to give the pre-eminent place to the Lord Jesus Christ. We have had many chances to compromise and make a kind of peace with those who are unfriendly to the Lord, but this we have refused to do.

If you Christian people are interested in a Christian educational institution that in all things and at all times sincerely endeavors to give first place to the Lord Jesus Christ and that puts first emphasis on soul winning, we would like to have you make a contribution to our Student Loan Endowment Fund so we can help students who wish to get the type of training Bob Jones University offers but who are not able to pay all their expenses. We are praying that during 1950, hundreds of people may make some contribution to this million-dollar Student Loan Endowment Fund which we are raising. We are calling on you to help us, and we believe you are going to help us. Please write us, and please make a contribution of some amount to this Student Loan Endowment Fund. Please pray for us and pray every day for Bob Jones University that it may keep on keeping on exalting the Lord Jesus Christ and giving an aggressive evangelistic emphasis.

BOB JONES, Founder
Bob Jones University
Greenville, S. C.
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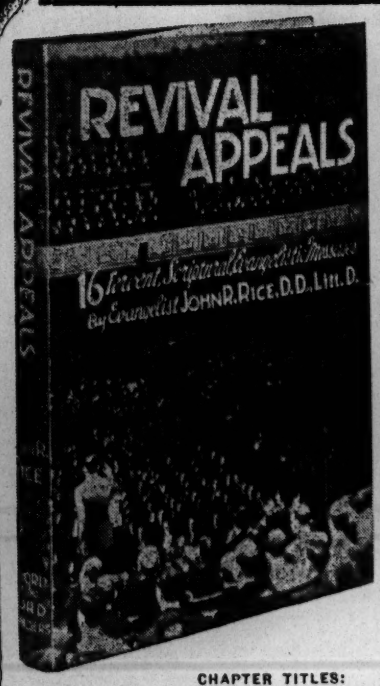

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4. Will a Loving God Send a Sinner to Hell?
5. Hell—Keep Out!
6. Religious But Lost!
7. A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved
8. The Criminal Who Wanted Another Chance
9. How a Lost Sheep Got Home
10. Come Unto Me
11. Facing the Pierced Jesus
12. It Is Finished
13. No Room for Jesus
14. Neglect, the Shortest Way to Hell
15. "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"
16. Missing God's Last Train for Heaven

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America! Quit Insulting God!

(Continued from page 6)

their open stand. THEY ARE TRUE AMERICANS!

Members of school boards who hear me this morning, do not hire teachers unless you know they are true to the Word of God, unless they openly confess Christ. We have made scholastic degrees the standard rather than Christian character. Thank God for teachers who have both!

We must face these facts. There is much more I could say but I will add this final word about the schools. Go to many of our leading colleges and universities and you will find the same atheistic, communistic gang at work, doing everything possible to destroy faith in Christ and His Word. In some of our largest universities there are teachers who openly boast of the fact that they are communists, they teach doctrines of communism in their classes. Oh, how we need family altars in our homes to ground our young people in the Word of God! But this is not all—

III.
We Are Insulting God in Our Factory Life

I do not need to tell you this morning that the man who works in a store, shop, or factory, who is out and out for Christ, who manifests his Christianity seven days in the week, IS A MARKED MAN! if you live a surrendered Christian life, those about you will call you a fanatic, a crackpot! They will laugh at you when they see you reading your Bible; they will make fun of you when you speak to the unsaved about Christ; but they will respect you in their hearts if your life is genuine!

Go to any shop or factory on a Monday morning, do you know what you will hear? I'll tell you! You will hear men telling about their drinking parties over the week end, how much they made or lost while gambling, the women they ran around with; and all the rest of their hellish living. I know, for I have been working with factory men over twenty years. I know the way our men and women are living.

I thank God for those of you who are boldly confessing Christ where you are working. God bless and use you! Do not get discouraged! We need more men like you.

This atheistic, communistic gang are doing everything possible to control the labor in our shops and factories. They have taken John Wesley's unit plan which was used so effectively by God in the early days of the Methodist Church and are using it to capture the hearts and minds of our factory folk. What is the communistic cell but John Wesley's unit system taken over by the devil? Oh, factory folk, do not be misled by it! This whole communistic program is an insult to God!

Then too—

IV.
We Are Insulting God in Our Church Life

"Oh," you say, "surely this isn't possible! How can we insult God in our churches?" I tell you it is true! Hundreds of churches have pastors who are preaching doctrines which are a positive insult to God. They deny the deity and divinity of Christ, making Him but a good man. They tell us we are saved not through His atoning blood but through following Him as our example. They despise the thought of salvation through His death upon the cross; they reject the miracles, deny the fact of Hell, deny His resurrection, His ascension and His coming again. Is it any wonder these churches are dead, that hundreds of them cannot get enough people to come to have an evening service?

Oh, how we need a spiritual awakening in our churches! If we have a revival at all, here is where it must begin. You cannot revive a sinner; he is spiritually dead. Only cold, indifferent Christians can be revived!

How many churches hold regular cottage prayer meetings in the homes of their members? You know they are few and far between. Why these modern churches do not even have a mid-week prayer meeting! If they have a meeting it is to listen to a book review or a lecture or look at some movie.

There are more church members in the movie houses of America on Sunday nights than there are in our churches. Thousands of church members know no more about being born-again than a jack rabbit! They joined the church at the annual roundup. You know, just before Easter many modern ministers will round up everyone they can get and take them into the church. Others are content to go along Sunday after Sunday without any thought of winning souls to Christ.

This is why only 8% of the people attend church on Sunday morning and only 2% on Sunday night! Do you know that last year 61,000 churches did not have one addition to the church, one soul who found Christ? Nine thousand churches closed their doors permanently, never to open them again as a church.

We are insulting God by our careless indifferent church life, and souls everywhere are dying and going to Hell! God help us to see it! What is your church doing? Are you having souls saved? Are you as a church member doing your part?

What Is the Result of All This?

Because we have shut Christ out of our home life, last year three out of every five marriages were ended by divorce. What else can you expect? Juvenile delinquency has reached an all-time high. The situation is so serious that J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has warned us, by radio and through the press, that something must be done about it. He said that last year—

13% of the murders
28% of the robberies
41% of the burglaries
51% of the auto thefts

were committed by young people under twenty-one years of age. Juvenile delinquency increased 7-2/5% even in our rural areas last year. Only 2% of our youthful criminals last year attended any Sunday School!

We had a major crime last year every 18 seconds, a murder every 40 minutes. If the murdered folk were placed in hearses, one behind the other, we would have a funeral procession of murdered people 78 miles long! We had an average of 81 suicides for every day last year in America. God help us to realize the heartache behind all this!

I said it before, I repeat it now, unless we repent of our sin and come back to God, unless we have a spiritual awakening, the judgment of a just and holy God will fall upon us! We cannot go on insulting God, our cup of iniquity is about full!

God Has Warned Us!

God warned the people in Noah's day, but they would not listen. They continued on day after day insulting God in every way until the flood came and all perished.

God warned the people of Sodom and Gomorrah through Lot, telling them that unless they repent they would be destroyed by fire. God's Word says, "He was as one that mocked." Lot and his loved ones were hurried out of the condemned cities when the fire of God fell, and all were destroyed. In the smoke rising above the ashes I can read the words, "God is not mocked!"

We, too, have had a four-fold warning. We have been warned through floods; we have been warned through dust storms, we have been warned through pestilences like flu, heart disease, and cancer; we have been warned through war. My friends, do you want to go through the experiences of a terrible atomic war? I say to you that as surely as you hear me the judgment of God will fall upon us unless we have a spiritual awakening.

What is the answer? Just this, if we as Christians will confess our sin, if we will obey God's commands, God's judgment will be lifted.

Nineveh was to be destroyed, but when warned by Jonah the people of Nineveh repented in sackcloth and ashes and God spared them. God will spare us if we will turn to Him. He is waiting to bless us. This is why we are asking every pastor, every church member to work with us as "CHRIST FOR AMERICA" carries on this spiritual awakening program.

Let me ask you, are you willing to be used? Is your heart right with God? If not, get on your knees, if you can, where you are. Stay there until God speaks to you, until you get things settled. If you are unsaved, accept Christ today. Do it now!

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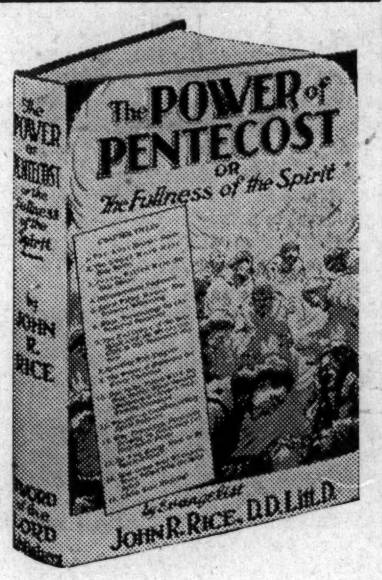

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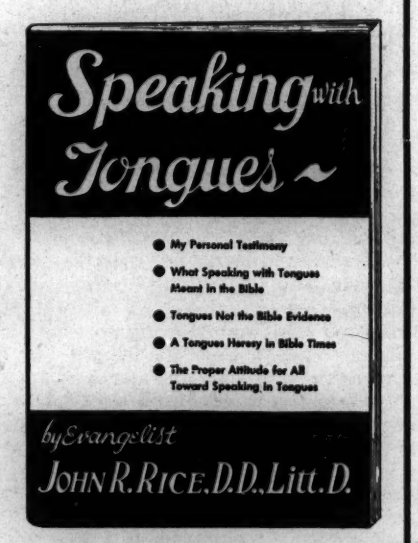

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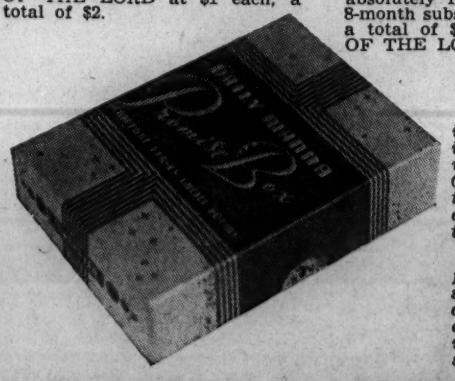

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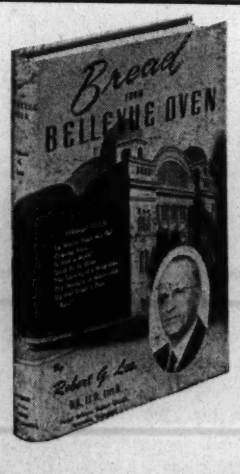

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